

First Line of Defense / Liberty City / The Army's Florida Paradise / First-Class in Bavaria

The Official U.S. Army Magazine

September 2004  
[www.soldiersmagazine.com](http://www.soldiersmagazine.com)

# Soldiers

War on  
Terrorism  
Review





**Cover** Story — Page 4

SPC Scott L. Templeton of the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Farah, Afghanistan, provides security during a recent operation.

— SPC Thomas Bray

# CONTE

Soldiers | September 2004 | Vol





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NORTHCOM

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*Got Off-Time?*



shades  
OF green

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This month Soldiers magazine pays tribute to those among us that have been exhibiting the warrior spirit and the compassion of the American Soldier while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. In our special expanded On Point section we showcase, through photographs taken by Soldiers, the actions of those on the front lines on the war on terrorism.

Fred Baker from Fort Sill, Okla., shows us how drill sergeants and trainers at the home of the artillery are preparing Soldiers for urban operation in his piece on "Liberty City."

Few Soldiers have seen the Army Operations Center or have had any dealings with it, but it has touched everyone of us in one way or another. MAJ William Schwab and SGT Lorie Jewell give us a close-up look at the AOC in "The Army's Nerve Center."

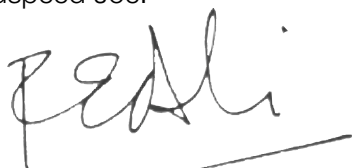
And in "Putting the Army Ashore" Steve Harding shows us how Army mariners put Soldiers and equipment on the beach.

As Soldiers rotate back from tours in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, we feature three diversions for them and their families. Heike Hasenauer and Beth Reece showcase armed forces recreation centers in Germany and Florida, respectively, while Jennifer Brennan highlights the Soldiers Show.

**Soldiers** is always looking for submissions from the field, and we welcome your photographs and stories. Send your high resolution images and articles to [soldiers@belvoir.army.mil](mailto:soldiers@belvoir.army.mil) and see [soldiersmagazine.com](http://soldiersmagazine.com) for submission guidelines.



Lastly, this month we bid farewell to a valued member of the **Soldiers** staff. Joe Marsden has served his nation and Army with loyalty and selflessness for 22 years. As he goes off to a well-deserved retirement, we at **Soldiers** will miss him, his quiet competence and gentle nature. Godspeed Joe!

  
**Rob Ali**  
 Editor in Chief



## Soldiers

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2003



NAGC Blue Pencil  
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2004

## Great Story

YOUR July story "Remembering the Fallen" was wonderful and I shared it with many friends who don't have access to your fine magazine.

It was great to see this gratitude after all the negativity that has been plastered through the media. I only wish the media would broadcast more stories like this one to share with everyone, in order to show more "positivity" and also reinforce the gratefulness which still exists in some of the Iraqi people, despite the things we may hear in the news.

Thanks again to SPC Benjamin R. Kibbey for the great story!

**SSG Scott B. Arispe**  
via e-mail

## Unit Corrections

YOUR caption for the photo on page 20 of the July article "Welcoming Soldiers Home" is incorrect. It said the returning Soldiers were from the 7th Infantry Division's 43rd Area Support Group, when they were actually from the Iowa National Guard's 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment, returning from duty in Sinai with the Multinational Force and Observers.

**MAJ Steve Boesen**  
via e-mail

A LINE in the July story "Troops In, Troops Out" states that the 278th Armored Cavalry Regt. is from Texas, but the unit is actually from Tennessee.

**SSG Larry May**  
via e-mail

## The Flag, Continued

THE August Lifestyles article "Why Reverse It?" caught my eye. I get questioned regularly about why the Ameri-

can flag is "backwards" on the right sleeve of my BDUs.

I've done a little research on this subject. Looking through the U.S. Code online, I found that Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 8 (j) states that:

"No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen and members of patriotic organizations. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart."

The U.S. code doesn't state how the flag will be worn; the military can decide that.

In conclusion, there seem to be two ways to look at this issue. The first

*WE'RE sorry for the mix-up. We took the photo — and the photographer's name — directly off the "Army Images" section of the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs home page. We, and the home page's webmaster, are happy to correct the error.*

is tradition — the way your article described it, with the flag's canton (or union) always facing forward, indicating that we're always moving forward and not retreating. The second is flag etiquette, which says the canton (or union) is closest to the heart. If I ask you where your heart is, you'll point to your chest, not your back. Since the flag is on the right shoulder, the canton (or union) would be forward in order to be closer to your heart!

I just thought I'd throw in my two cents worth. Great magazine!

**SFC David B. Willis**  
via e-mail



For links to the Army News Service and Soldiers Radio Live, visit [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil)



Get DOD News at [www.defenselink.mil](http://www.defenselink.mil)





# War on Terror

# Review

A pictorial of events  
from September 2003  
to July 2004





Iraq — U.S. Soldiers discover and remove the cover hiding the spider hole (left and above right) used by former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein before he was captured Dec. 13 at a farm near Tikrit, northern Iraq. — Photos Courtesy 4th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office





1. Iraq — SPC Frank Turner from the 82nd Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade takes part in a cordon-and-search operation in Baghdad. — *SPC Edwin M. Bridges*

2. Afghanistan — SPC Denton Burkes of the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, sets up a blockade with concertina wire near the village of Shuranam during a fact-gathering and weapon-search mission. — *PFC Hugo A. Baray-Vasquez*

3. Kansas — Fort Riley Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, train for their September deployment to Iraq. — *Fort Riley PAO*

4. Afghanistan — Soldiers of the 1st Bn., 501st Inf. Regt., search vehicles at a checkpoint during Operation Avalanche. — *SPC Gul A. Alisan*

5. Iraq — A Soldier from the 173rd Abn. Bde. removes sand blocking the entrance to a suspected weapons cache during a cordon-and-search operation. — *SPC Clinton Tarzia*



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## A pictorial of events from September 2003 to July 2004



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6. Iraq — One of GEN Peter J. Schoomaker's first acts after becoming the Army chief of staff was to make a first-hand assessment of the situation in Iraq. — *SFC William Armstrong*

7. Iraq — Soldiers of the 671st Engineer Co., an Oregon-based Reserve unit, travel the murky waters of the Tigris River. Their main mission is building bridges and gathering information from people along the river. — *SFC Ryan Smith*

8. California — As part of the nation's ongoing effort to protect important structures from terrorist attack, National Guard Soldiers conduct roving patrols on and near San Francisco's historic Golden Gate bridge, as well as guarding specific structures and facilities at both ends of the span. — *Steve Harding*

9. Afghanistan — Army Reserve training team member CPT David Poland of the 75th Division's 3rd Brigade conducts an after-action review with members of the Afghan National Army. — *MAJ Wayne Marotto*



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1. Afghanistan — As Afghan children look on, Soldiers deliver canned food, school supplies and other goods to an orphanage. — *MAJ Wayne Marotto*

2. Iraq — SPC Timothy Johnson, from the 4th Inf. Div, shares a peaceful moment with a young Iraqi. — *SGT Brian Cox*

3. Iraq — Stryker wheeled fighting vehicles of Company A, 5th Bn., 20th Inf. Regt., move through the town of Samarra. The deployment marks the Stryker's combat debut. — *SPC Clinton Tarzia*

4. Iraq — Convoys remained a frequent target of attack by Iraqi insurgents, and Soldiers maintained a constant vigil against ambush. These troops, from the 4th Inf. Div., are convoying to Kuwait for onward movement to the United States. — *SPC Joseph Norton*



4





5

5. Iraq — A 173rd Abn. Bde. Soldier provides security on a busy street. — *SPC Brandon Aird*

6. Iraq — PFC John Dain of Co. A, 1st Bn., 26th Inf. Regt., and an Iraqi National Guard soldier inspect a vehicle near Samarra. — *SGT Roland G. Walt*

7. Afghanistan — SGT Jennifer Molderhauer of the 10th Mountain Div. monitors a crowd of Afghan women and children waiting to be seen during a civil medical assistance mission in Ghazni. — *SPC Gul A. Alisan*

8. Texas — SSG James Smith of the Army Reserve's 257th Transportation Company holds his young son after returning from Iraq. — *Airman 1st Class Daniel DeCook, USAF*

9. Texas — Scenes of joyous welcome took place at Fort Hood and posts across the Army as troops returned from deployments around the world. — *Grazyna Musick*



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A pictorial of events  
from September 2003  
to July 2004



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Urban-Operations  
Training Environment

# LIBERTY CITY

Story and Photos by Fred W. Baker III

Fort Sill, Okla.

**A**s the early morning sun rises over the mock village, PFC Christopher Wilson sets out to perform the job he loves — role-playing troublemaker.

After begging for food for a while, he harasses some Soldiers until they give him the water he demands. Then, despite their kindness, he begins pummeling them with rocks.

“You Soldiers are stupid. Stupid Americans,” he shouts at some privates who refuse to give him food. “You come to my village. You take everything. And you give me no food.”

Wilson senses the Soldiers’ uneasiness and will do anything he can to aggravate them further. How the Soldiers react could mean the difference between life and death.

In his role as an “indigenous villager,” Wilson helps to train Soldiers how to react to potentially dangerous

“The purpose of Liberty City is to give Soldiers an idea of the ever-changing environment they will face in Iraq.”

situations, thereby helping to keep them alive.

The urban operations training environment is called Liberty City, and it incorporates newly implemented training models designed

under the “Warrior Ethos Program” of instruction for basic combat training at Fort Sill, Okla.

Soldiers here perform tasks that could be required of them in Iraq and Afghanistan. If they respond incorrectly to events in the village, role-playing instructors set them straight.

The path to Liberty City takes Soldiers down a winding gravel road, behind an iron gate surrounded by concertina wire and armed Soldiers on patrol.

A makeshift hospital, a school and a restaurant form a town square. And, simulating a real-world location, only a handful of the village’s buildings are

Fred Baker III works for the Public Affairs Office at the U.S. Army Field Artillery Center, Fort Sill, Okla.

◀ Soldiers from Battery A, 1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery, cross a makeshift bridge while searching for a “downed airman” during training at Fort Sill’s Liberty City site.

▶ PVTs Douglas Faber and Christopher Barnes are among the Btry. A Soldiers providing security during a patrol exercise, one of several undertaken over two days.







“We’re producing Soldiers who use initiative, who think and who are not afraid to make decisions.”

◀ PVT Benson Waite of Btry. A frisks 1SG James Cutone. Learning to perform such searches is a vital part of the Soldiers’ training.

“The purpose of Liberty City is to give Soldiers an idea of the ever-changing environment they will face in Iraq,” said senior drill sergeant SFC Kevin Smith. “So, the first time they experience a potentially dangerous situation it won’t be in Iraq or Afghanistan.”

The trainees are separated into four teams. One assumes a quick-reaction-force role and acts as a backup to defend the village if attackers overcome the main patrol.

Another team forms the main patrol, providing security in and around the village, searching out weapons caches, providing aid to a downed pilot and other missions.

One platoon assumes traffic-control-point security and conducts vehicle and personnel inspections. And yet another travels in a convoy, learning convoy operations and defensive procedures.

With the drill instructors acting as squad leaders, the Soldiers are taught such real-world combat tasks as inspecting vehicles, setting up controlled-access points, and reacting to snipers and unexploded ordnance.

“We want them to get in the mindset of expecting the unexpected,” said Smith. “If we’re doing that, we’re making progress. Training like that conducted at Liberty City makes for better Soldiers. We’re producing Soldiers who use initiative, who think and who are not afraid to make decisions.”

“It seemed very real,” said PV1 Austin Fay, of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery, of the training. “It was also tiring. We’re stressed out. We

in use at any one time.

Soldiers who are “deployed” to Liberty City battle nearly all of the elements Soldiers deployed to Iraq must endure — fatigue, hunger and an unseen enemy — all before graduation from BCT.

The trainees eat, sleep and attend to personal hygiene when they can fit it in to their busy schedules. Training and instinct take over when fatigue tests their decision-making abilities. Everything they experience is aimed at making them better Soldiers.



want to go to bed. We want to take a shower.

"We've been over these things so many times that they're now second nature," Fay said. "We know what we have to do, and we're doing it."

A hard-core opposing force added to Liberty City realism, said PV1 Zachary Cobb of 1st Bn., 22nd FA.

SFC Georgino Gonzalez heads the site's OPFOR team. He said most of his crew has served in combat areas, including Bosnia and Iraq. Their experience gives them the ability to add to the realism of training.

"If we initially looked lost and confused, the drill sergeants took charge, and we followed," said PV1 Isaac Johnson, also of 1st Bn., 79th FA. "They made the trainees feel comfortable and confident that we were going to learn what we needed to learn."

"Liberty City gives us an opportunity to show Soldiers, in a controlled



environment, what they're going to see overseas," Gonzalez said. "It gives them the opportunity to use all of their training in one place."

The next time they experience similar scenarios, they'll be the real things, Gonzales added. 🚩

▲ Learning the correct way to search vehicles before allowing them to enter controlled areas is also part of the training at Liberty City.

▼ Portraying a hungry civilian, PFC Christopher Wilson begs for food from Soldiers of Fort Sill's Btry. E, 1st Bn., 22nd FA.











# First Line Of Defense

Story by MSG Lisa Gregory

“Our focus is to deter, prevent, defeat and mitigate aggression or threats against the United States.”

WHILE Soldiers are deployed around the world to support the war on terrorism, the eyes of those working at U.S. Northern Command keep watch over loved ones at home.

Established as a new command after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the U.S. Northern Command's most important mission is to defend the U.S. homeland, watching over an area that includes the United States, Canada, Mexico, parts of the Caribbean and the contiguous waters of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

The command supports civilian

authorities in response to contingencies that include natural disasters, and it has the responsibility for defending U.S. airspace and coastlines.

“Our focus is to deter, prevent, defeat and mitigate aggression or threats against the United States,” said LTC Shelly Stellwagen, NORTHCOM's deputy director of public affairs. “Essentially, the mission is to provide military assistance to civil authorities, as directed by the president or secretary of defense.”

Stellwagen said that various civilian agencies that are responsible for homeland security — such as the Federal Emergency Management

◀ Two Air National Guard F-16C fighters patrol the skies over Washington, D.C. NORTHCOM is responsible for defending the nation's airspace and coastlines.

▶ Staff members in NORTHCOM's Domestic Warning Center monitor possible threat situations so that military forces can quickly move into action if required.



Master Sgt. Dean Kuhlman, USAF

MSG Lisa Gregory



Tech. Sgt. Wayne Clark, USAF

◀ Frequent joint homeland security exercises ensure that military and civilian agencies are ready to respond in any time of emergency.

Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation — take the lead when responding to events such as natural disasters or terrorist threats that occur in the U.S. If a situation warrants military assistance to civil authorities, NORTHCOM operates under that lead agency.

“Before the military can become involved, a request from the agency needing assistance is sent to the Pentagon,” said Stellwagen. “The need has to exceed existing local or state resources before that can happen.”

Protecting the nation from terrorism and providing emergency aid during disasters requires a constant flow of information among first responders, who provide security, and the military, which is responsible for defending America. This flow of information begins inside the Domestic Warning Center at NORTHCOM headquarters.

“We’re able to gather information, so if the military is called in we’re prepared to give the senior leaders all of the information they’ll need,” said Barb Duink, chief of the DWC.

“We stood up the center before the shuttle *Columbia* disaster and we were able to track what other agencies were doing,” she said. “Here we handle land and military assistance to civil

authorities. The information we gather ensures military leaders have necessary point-of-contact information with the lead federal agency, remain up to date on the latest developments and can react when needed.”

Duink said setting up the DWC was no small task. “Because this is the first center to link first responders and the military, there were no checklists to go by and no way to test if what was in place would work,” said Duink. “Today we have formal checklists and training programs in place to test what we do here.”

Duink said the center operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Staffing is normally kept at a minimum, though if an event appears to escalate, the operations staff will come in and provide extra personnel.

“When I arrive it’s because there’s something happening,” said COL Jay Marks, director of Current Operations Groups. “We’re part of the adaptive headquarters in charge of air, land and sea. When we’re called in, we bring about 15 extra people. This helps

enhance the center’s capabilities.”

Marks said part of the goal of the federal response plan is to support the lead agency responding to an event.

“For example, during fire season we provide support and consequence management to the lead agency, which is usually FEMA,” he said. “We also support the FBI, the U.S. Capitol Police, and any other agency that is part of the response plan.”

Subordinate commands within NORTHCOM ensure support is available when it’s needed. The Standing Joint Forces Headquarters-North coordinates land and maritime defense and provides situational awareness of events to military commands and civilian agencies.

NORTHCOM’s Joint Task Force Civil Support provides command and control when military forces support a lead agency. Also part of

NORTHCOM is Joint Task Force Six, which provides counterdrug support to federal, state and local law-enforcement agencies.

“It’s exciting and interesting to set up a combatant command,” said Duink, “but it’s sometimes difficult to look around the room and see only a few people. And then I realize

that we can control what happens here now, and that makes it worth it.”

As the war on terrorism continues abroad, the men and women of NORTHCOM continue to stand guard at America’s borders and are ready to live by the command’s motto: “Deter, Prevent, Defeat, Mitigate.”

As the war on terrorism continues abroad, the men and women of NORTHCOM continue to stand guard at America's borders...



# The Army's Nerve Center

Story by MAJ William P. Schwab and SGT Lorie Jewell



▲ The twice-daily shift change at the Army Operations Center follows the morning and afternoon updates, allowing all AOC staffers to exchange information.



▲ AOC staffers SSG Corey Robinson and SSG Rhonda Lawrence discuss the recent alert of units for operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

## THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY OPERATIONS CENTER

# The Army's Nerve Center

**T**UCKED away in the basement of the Pentagon, two levels beneath a parking lot, is the Department of the Army Operations Center.

Critical information flows through the high-security worksite, with AOC personnel — almost all in uniform — working day and night to keep senior Army leaders aware of issues and events around the world, helping them make timely, critical decisions, said COL Pete Utley, chief of current operations and contingency plans.

“The AOC is the conduit among commanders in the field and Army staff and senior leaders,” said Utley. “We’re very attuned to what Soldiers

are doing every day. We make sure the priorities and critical needs identified by commanders are addressed and that all of those great Soldiers out there are getting the best possible support so they can succeed.”

Former AOC director MG Peter Chiarelli, now commanding the 1st Cavalry Division in Iraq, describes the AOC as the Army’s command-and-control center. Among recent issues and events AOC staffers have dealt with were a transportation convoy being ambushed in Iraq, a special-forces team discovering and destroying a weapons cache while under hostile fire in Afghanistan, up-armored Humvees arriving at a staging area in Kuwait and awaiting movement to troops in Iraq, and the possible deployment to Iraq of units from the

Korea-based 2nd Infantry Div.

## Mission: Army Watch

Within the AOC is the Army Watch, a year-round emergency-action facility. It’s the central point of contact during emergencies. A two-person officer and NCO team directs hundreds of communications daily to the FBI, the State Department, the White House Command Center, local law-enforcement agencies and others. Two teams split a 24-hour shift to deal with contingencies ranging from a severe-weather warning to a stolen nuclear device.

“The watch team must be able to handle some of the most unusual and critical situations imaginable, and keep operations center leaders informed,” said MAJ Jim Walton.

They even have procedures for dealing with UFOs, said SFC Jeff Roper.

## Emergency Action Console

Collocated with the Army Watch is

MAJ William Schwab is a member of the California Army National Guard and served an active-duty stint as a member of the AOC staff. SGT Lorie Jewell writes for the Army News Service at the Pentagon.



The EAC's reach is vast when it comes to putting critical information in the hands of those who need it.

the Emergency Action Console, a switchboard with direct access to top leaders. The EAC is manned by up to four NCOs, all of whom are well versed in all types of secure communications. Among the equipment used are Redline telephones connected to a military network and immediately secure when at least two telephones are in use.

The EAC's reach is vast when it comes to putting critical information in the hands of those who need it.

"We can send a secure fax to a general officer on an airplane in flight anywhere in the world," said SGT Justin Ciohesy.

### Crisis Action Team

While the Army Watch monitors forces around the world, the Crisis Action Team, or CAT, focuses on specific areas during emergencies. Some of its key responsibilities include organizing forces to resolve a crisis, training forces to meet specific mission requirements, mobilizing national resources to support military objectives, and activating Reserve and National Guard forces as needed. That also involves equipping those forces, planning rotations while sustaining them, and then demobilizing individuals and units after the crisis has been resolved.

For a short-term crisis, active-component Soldiers from the Department of the Army staff man the CAT. Reserve-component Soldiers augment and eventually replace the active-duty Soldiers during long-term crises such as the current war on terrorism.

In the aftermath of the 2001 terrorist attacks, the AOC staff tripled and the CAT staff's operational tempo went into high speed, Utley said.

Reserve-component Soldiers now compose more than 90 percent of the CAT. All have volunteered for the duty, Utley said, bringing a variety of skills

to the team. Among the staff are a minister, lawyers, physician assistants, teachers, police officers, accountants, small-business owners, firefighters, an airline pilot, business managers, engineers and government employees. They represent virtually every branch of the Army.

The CAT consists of a dedicated "hot" desk with classified and unclassified computers, and secure telephones for 24 separate Army staff sections. CAT support teams include the Anti-Terrorism Operations Intelligence Cell and Foreign Intelligence Watch teams, the Personnel Contingency Cell and the Logistics Operations Cell.

Daily briefings to senior leaders may contain up to 100 PowerPoint slides, with graphics detailing up-to-the-minute intelligence and operations issues. One of the presenter's challenges is keeping each briefing to 30 minutes, including time for questions.

### Visitor Destination

While access to some AOC locations requires a top-secret clearance and access card, the center frequently hosts such visitors as congressional staffers, U.S. and foreign dignitaries, War College classes and entertainers.

When they're not escorting visitors, NCOs are preparing daily situation reports, concise summaries of significant events and actions that are distributed to key leaders each day. Most of the AOC staff consists of officers

and senior NCOs, with a few junior NCOs.

### Memorable Moments

The AOC staff has occupied a front-row seat as operations of the last few years played out. When troops entered Iraq, senior leaders joined staffers for a tense all-night vigil. By employing the latest technologies, they were able to look on as Baghdad fell and watch as Saddam Hussein was pulled from a hole in the ground.

"It's kind of neat being this far away but feeling like you're right there," Utley said.

Such experiences have done more than give staffers a personal piece of history in the making. They have witnessed the dedication, skills and sacrifices of the men and women making it happen.

"There is a lot of respect here for what Soldiers are doing over there," Utley said. "No doubt about it." 🇺🇸



► Congressional staff member Maren Leed and LTC Mike Barbero of the Senate Armed Services Committee watch AOC operations from the balcony.

# Putting the Ar

Story and Photos by Steve Harding

Soldiers of the Army's 7th Transportation Group demonstrated a vitally important part of the nation's force-projection capability during a recent exercise on the beaches of Fort Story, Va.

Army watercraft — including TSV-1X *Spearhead* (at left) and LCU-2006 *Bristoe Station* (at right) gather at a roll-on/roll-off discharge facility alongside the Navy fast sealift ship USNS *Denebola*.



# my Ashore





## Joint Logistics-Over-the-Shore (JLOTS)



▲ Two LCUs and an LCM-8 (foreground) prepare to load vehicles and equipment off-loaded from *Denebola*.

Soldiers of the Army's 7th Transportation Group demonstrated a little-known but vitally important part of the nation's force-projection capability during a recent exercise on the beaches of Fort Story, Va.

Called a joint logistics-over-the-shore, or JLOTS, operation, the effort allows vehicles and equipment loaded aboard Navy fast sealift ships to be brought ashore by Army watercraft. This means that commanders can bypass enemy-held or inadequate

ports, and allows the Army to put ashore both initial and sustainment forces virtually anywhere in the world. It is a capability used with great effectiveness in operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom, and in contingency operations from the Philippines to Kosovo.

Conducted in conjunction with the Army's fifth Force Projection Symposium, the Fort Story exercise included the Navy sealift ship USNS *Denebola* and virtually every type of watercraft in the Army's fleet. These ranged from small and mid-sized landing

craft to the larger logistics support vessel *CW2 Harold C. Clinger* and the state-of-the-art theater support vessel *Spearhead*. Among the vehicles brought ashore were Stryker wheeled combat vehicles, trucks, Humvees and an M1 Abrams tank.

The key non-watercraft systems in the exercise were a roll-on/roll-off discharge facility, or RRDF, and a floating causeway. Essentially an offshore pier secured alongside *Denebola*, the RRDF allowed vehicles to be driven off the sealift ship and onto waiting Army watercraft. The





▲ *Bristoe Station* leaves the RRDF and heads toward the floating causeway extending from the beach at Fort Story.

◀ A Soldier guides an M1 Abrams tank off the LCU and onto the end of the floating causeway, some 500 meters off the beach.

▼ *Spearhead* approaches a pier in downtown Norfolk, Va., to pick up dignitaries and observers for the trip to Fort Story.

vessels then ferried the vehicles to the causeway, a floating roadway anchored to the beach and projecting several hundred meters out to sea. Once ashore, the vehicles were marshaled for onward movement.

The Fort Story exercise allowed the Soldiers of the 7th Trans. Grp. to practice essential real-world skills, while at the same time allowing hundreds of symposium attendees and members of the press to get a first-hand look at the ways Army mariners help project the nation's military might. 🇺🇸





SGT Abimael Leon, a Texas National Guard member, dances with Indiana Guard member SPC Emily Plasterer.

Tim Hipps





# The Heart of a Soldier

Story by Jennifer Brennan

DUBBED “The Heart of a Soldier,” the 2004 U.S. Army Soldier Show explores the hardships of deployment and separation through musical performances that range from disco and rock to lyrical and ballet.

“Part of what makes the show is the emotional impact of it,” said Victor Hurtado, the show’s artistic director.

The cast includes 18 active-duty and reserve-component Soldiers from private first class to first lieutenant — all chosen from among 138

Soldiers who auditioned for the show. Seven Soldier-technicians help orchestrate lights and sound.

Performances that tug at the heartstrings are interlaced with rock acts packed with bright costumes and frizzy wigs. The music includes familiar hits by Outkast, Prince, ABBA, Usher, Jon Bon Jovi and No Doubt.

Dance sequences include numbers from the American Bandstand era and swing and disco periods.

One of the show’s more emotional scenes includes PFC Heather Jenkins making a call home to her “brother,” played by SPC James Becton. As she assures him she’s okay, the backdrop flashes video footage of Soldiers and their families. A child waves an American flag

Jennifer Brennan works for the Belvoir Eagle at Fort Belvoir, Va. Information was added from an Army News Release by Tim Hipps of the Army Community and Family Support Center.



Tim Hipps

while loved ones hold “Welcome Home” signs.

The show also touches on faith and spirituality. Cast members dressed in white robes portray 10-foot tall angels. At one point the angels lift their arms rejoicing, appearing to float off the ground.

“It’s a really good show. Every year it gets better,” said Etta Watts, deputy adjutant general for the U.S. Army Materiel Command, after catching the show’s debut at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Cast member 1LT Meredith Melcher said scenes in the show bring back memories of her deployment to Iraq. It’s been an honor, she said, to play such roles as a loved one looking at a picture frame and singing Minnie Ripperton’s “Loving You.”

PFC Daren Taylor can also relate to being away from loved ones. His wife, Elizabeth, was expected to give birth in June, when the Fort Belvoir

▶ PFC Daren Taylor, SPC Korey McAleesejergins, SPC David Clemo and SGT Abimal Leon sing the Beatles’ hit “Yesterday.”

▶ SPC Kevin Allen and PFC Sasha Corrodus swing dance, while in the background four Soldiers sing a popular World War II-era tune.

Soldier will be on tour with the show in Italy.

The cast and crew put the show together in seven weeks, working 14- to 16-hour days, Hurtado said.

“This group has a phenomenal set of instruments — of voices, of intensity, of character, of attitude,” he said. “They have the ability to have fun, but then lock into seriousness and focus.”

The show travels to 108 locations during its six-month tour through 21 states, Germany, Italy, Washington, D.C. and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. A complete list of shows is available online. 📺

Donnie Biggs







Tim Hippos




Check out [www.armymwr.com/portal/recreation/entertainment/armysoldiershow/](http://www.armymwr.com/portal/recreation/entertainment/armysoldiershow/).

▲ SPC James Becton of Camp Red Cloud, Korea, brings a little spirit to the Soldiers Show.









# First-Class in Bavaria

Story and Photos by  
Heike Hasenauer

**S**OLDIERS and their families have a new reason to spend vacation time in beautiful southern Germany, now that the new Armed Forces Recreation Center hotel — the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort — is open in Bavaria's Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

The \$60 million "world-class" hotel, operated by the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center based in Alexandria, Va., covers approximately 20 acres, said AFRC spokesman Chris Forbes. Paid for by a commercial loan to the U.S. government, repayment will be made at no cost to U.S. taxpayers, Forbes said.

Situated at the foot of Germany's highest peak, the Zugspitze, the hotel will accommodate 1,000 guests in its 330 spacious guest rooms.

Among the hotel's many distinctive features are a three-story atrium lobby with a waterfall behind the reception desk. Decorated with mountain images throughout, the hotel also uses

◀ This castle nestled in the mountains near Garmisch can be seen from the famous Neuschwanstein castle, referred to by many as the "Fairytale Castle."





▲ Domes and rooftops in Salzburg, Austria.



▲ A mountain lodge on the way to the Zugspitze.



▲ Partnachklamm gorge, Garmisch.

## *All rooms in the new three-story Edelweiss Lodge and have either a balcony or patio with*

rustic decorative lighting, solid hickory furniture with leather cushions and heavy, distressed ceiling beams as mood setters, Forbes said.

Accommodations vary from standard rooms with two queen-size beds and room for a crib to junior suites with two queen-size beds and a sitting room to loft suites — two-story rooms with a sitting area and bathroom downstairs and bedroom upstairs — and rooms equipped for guests with special needs.

All rooms in the three-story hotel have bathtubs, towel warmers and either a balcony or patio with a view of the Alps.

The hotel's other amenities include a 500-capacity ballroom and a conference center with a sprawling outside terrace; an indoor swimming pool; a full-service wellness center with a fitness room, juice bar, locker rooms and saunas; three themed restaurants, including a self-service

and full-service restaurant and bistro bar; and a 250-space underground parking garage.

From the indoor pool guests can watch the World Cup ski run at the nearby Garmisch Olympic ski course. A tour office, slot-machine room, video-game room and guest laundry are also available.

Guests can also take advantage of AFRC's nine-hole golf course; Vacation Village and campground; private ski and sport lodge; various outdoor sports programs and sports equipment rentals, tours and U.S. shopping facilities in Garmisch.

Area attractions include a tour to the top of the Zugspitze, a hike through Partnachklamm gorge and visits to Oberammergau, site of the Passion Play that's performed every 10 years by Oberammergau residents. The town is a center of wood carving, mostly of religious figurines.

Other must-sees in the area

include Kloster Ettal (a monastery where monks teach school classes and make the famous Kloster liquors); King Ludwig II's castles Neuschwanstein and Linderhof; and the beautiful lakes Riessersee and Eibsee.

The Edelweiss Lodge and Resort will replace aging AFRC facilities in Bavaria that are about 60 years old, said Forbes. Among the old facilities that were spread over 50 miles was AFRC Chiemsee, which closed in September 2003.

In autumn 2003 the GEN Von Steuben Hotel in Garmisch, which was to close permanently in April 2003, reopened exclusively for Soldiers on R&R from operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, Forbes said.

The hotel employs a photographer to take family pictures. On-site video games set to free play, high-speed Internet access, and breakfast and dinner are all part of the price.





▲ A horse-and-buggy station in historic Salzburg.



▲ A fountain at Linderhof castle.

## *Resort located in Bavaria's Garmisch-Partenkirchen a fantastic view of the Alps.*

For \$90 a single Soldier may spend two nights at the Von Steuben Hotel. The price includes two dinners and two breakfasts. A couple may stay two days for \$120. Recreation packages are also available and include tours to such area attractions as Neuschwanstein castle and Salzburg, Austria.

The GEN Patton Hotel in Garmisch was scheduled to remain open to eligible military personnel and Defense Department civilians and retirees until the Edelweiss Lodge opened.

The hotel is named for the edelweiss flower, which has been a symbol of prestige for the alpine countries of Austria, Switzerland and Germany for hundreds of years. The hearty white plant was listed as a protected species in the Alps in 1878. Today, many Europeans still wear likenesses of the flower on their hats, lapels, suspenders and belts. And hikers often display a

manufactured version of the plant on their walking sticks.

Edelweiss isn't easy to find; it only grows high in the alpine forests. And it's sought not only for its beauty and symbolism, but also for its medicinal value.

"The new resort will offer increased force protection, more conveniences and a new level of service that will continue to please service members for many years," said Richard LeBrun, general manager of AFRC Resorts in Europe. 🇪🇺

### Edelweiss Lodge and Resort



For more information about AFRC facilities and services in Garmisch, visit [www.EdelweissLodgeandResort.com](http://www.EdelweissLodgeandResort.com) or call the Vacation Planning Center in Garmisch. From the States, dial commercial 011 49 8821-72981. In Germany, dial 08821-72981.

*Opens Mid-Sept. 2004*

*Got Off-Time? Check this out....*





# *Shades of Green, Back and*







# The Army's Paradise Florida

Story by Beth Reece  
Photos by Thomas O'Meara



**T**HINK vacation. The Shades of Green at Walt Disney World Resort awaits your reservation.

Closed since April 2002 for expansion and renovation, the armed forces recreation center resort has emerged as an upscale lodge featuring a grand entrance punctuated with water falls and natural rock. The room count has doubled, shooting from 287 to 586. And guests can expect the resort's amenities and services to meet their every need.

"This is the best place for military families to relax and enjoy the features of Disney World at great rates. You can't get a better deal anywhere else on Disney property," said general manager James McCrindle.

Shades of Green is one of four AFRCs operated by the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center.

## Better Than Ever..



### New and Improved

The resort boasts an indoor parking garage, two tennis courts, two heated swimming pools, a hot tub, children's pool and play area, video arcade, banquet accommodations and a fitness center.

Restaurants and cafes include the Evergreens bar and grill; the Garden Gallery, with breakfast and dinner buffets; Mangino's, featuring Tuscan cuisine; and the Express Café, offering specialty coffees and baked goods.

Expanded food service now allows the resort to host weddings, reunions and similar events for up to 500 guests.

"The character of the resort has completely changed with the expansion," McCrindle said. "There's so much more for our guests to do and enjoy, as well as proximity to the major attractions in Orlando."

*Got Off-Time? Check this out....*



New rooms resemble previously existing ones, which McCrindle said have always been kept to first-class standards. Each room can accommodate five guests, and has a patio or private balcony, two queen-size beds, a daybed and a refrigerator, as well as such other amenities as a hair dryer, Internet access, in-room movies and video games, and an electronic safe.

An AAFES-run store offers convenience items, snacks and Disney souvenirs. A retail area called “Made

in the Shade” features items from the AFRC resorts in Florida, Hawaii, Korea and Germany.

A friendly face picks up where space and amenities leave off.

“I’ll match our employees against those at any resort worldwide,” McCrindle said. “I used to think the guests had a roster of the employees, because they’d mention almost every one by name when listing things they enjoyed here.”

The average stay is five days, but

McCrindle recommends seven.

“That gives you five days of hustling to get all the attractions in, plus two days to rest and sit poolside,” he said. “When you’re here in July with 100 degrees beating down and the heat coming up from the concrete, you get exhausted quickly.”

The staff also hosts such seasonal activities as Easter-egg hunts and Oktoberfest celebrations.

## Great Value

Many guests say a Disney vacation would be out of their reach if not for Shades of Green, which has a significantly lower price tag than comparable resorts in the area, where prices can range from \$200 to \$500 a night.


While other resorts hike their prices during prime tourist seasons, Shades of Green keeps prices the same yearlong. Rates are based on pay grade and type of room.


For extra savings, guests may opt for the Gold Leaf Package, which is available for four- to eight-night stays. The package combines room, breakfast, dinner and attraction tickets at a discounted rate.

There’s no “down” season at Shades of Green, McCrindle said. Summer is a peak time for families with school-age children, while fall and winter draw more retirees and guests whose children are not yet in school.

“Believe it or not, our busiest season is Christmas and New Year. The area attractions do so much to make you feel good about a Christmas without snow. It’s magical,” McCrindle said.

Rooms typically sell out four to five months in advance, regardless of the season. When space is filled, the resort offers rooms with comparable rates at nearby hotels.

Shades of Green is open to all DOD authorized patrons, including active-duty and retired service members, Reserve and National Guard members, current and retired Department of Defense civilian employees, and families of eligible patrons. 

 For reservations call (888) 593-2242 or visit [www.shadesofgreen.org](http://www.shadesofgreen.org).

## Room Rates (Check the AAFES website for new updates).

Room rates are determined at check-in by military grade and apply to both active and retired military personnel and Department of Defense civilians. Sponsors are required to provide a valid military ID or current LES.

At this time, The Shades of Green does not yet have package rates for fiscal year 2005.

Military Grade/Civilian Grade (Effective 1 October 2004)

### Categories

	Standard Room Rate	Poolside Room Rate
1. E-1 through E-5	\$72.00*	\$82.00*
2. E-6 through E-9, O-1 through O-3, WO-1 to CW-3, GS-1 through GS-10, NF-1 through NF-3, Widows, Medal of Honor Recipients, and 100% Disabled Veterans	\$97.00	\$107.00
3. O-4 through O-6, CW-4 and CW-5, GS-11 through GS-15, and NF-4 and NF-5	\$104.00	\$114.00
4. O-7 through O-10, Active Duty Foreign Military**, Retired DoD Civilians, and NF-6	\$109.00	\$119.00
5. Junior Family Suite - All Ranks/Grades (sleeps 6)	\$200.00	
6. Family Suite - All Ranks/Grades (sleeps 8)	\$225.00	

\* E-1 through E-5 Sponsor and dependents will receive the rate that applies to category 1 (\$70/\$80 per night).

Any additional sponsored rooms will receive the rate that applies to category 2 (\$95/\$105 per night).

\*\* Foreign military assigned to a U.S. military installation only.

Please Note: All room rates are subject to change without notice. Above rates are based on two adults occupying a room. Add \$15.00 per additional adult, 18 years or older. For single occupancy, subtract \$2.00 from the above rates.

Rates are available year round with the exception of Holiday Packages at Christmas and New Years. Maximum number of rooms per sponsor is three and occupancy per room is five. Military sponsors should not reserve additional rooms under their name for other eligible military/DoD sponsors. Reservations are not transferable. Sponsored guests must be accompanied by the Military/DoD sponsor at check-in and throughout the entire stay. Due to fire codes, cooking appliances and microwaves are not allowed in guest rooms. Pets are not permitted. Every effort is made to accommodate room location and special requests; however, requests (e.g. - lobby level, golf view, etc.) are not guaranteed. Cancellation notice must be received 30 days prior to arrival date to avoid a penalty of one night.





## What's the Attraction?... Magic!

WANT magic? Head for Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

From the Magic Kingdom to SeaWorld, central Florida offers a range of amusements. Even better: Shades of Green guests are eligible for discounted attraction tickets. The sights include:

**Magic Kingdom** — Features more than 45 attractions in seven “lands” with varying themes; greetings by classic Disney characters; amusement rides for every age; a parade and a fireworks show. Inquire at the entrance about the Richard Petty Driving Experience, which puts guests behind the wheels of racecars.

**Disney-MGM Studios** — Features more than 15 attractions that highlight such Disney productions as “The Haunted Mansion” and “Beauty and the Beast.” Also has stage shows, rides, and the nightly “Fantasmic” light and music show.

**Epcot** — Features 10 major attractions that celebrate the wonders of tomorrow and the growth of technology. Half the park is a world showcase focusing on cuisine and culture of such countries as Germany, France, Morocco and the United Kingdom. Fireworks, lasers and music take center stage each night during “IllumiNations: Reflections of the Earth.” Certified divers can scuba dive in The Living Seas’ main tank through Dive Quest.

**Animal Kingdom** — Features seven “lands” with more than 20 attractions, exotic animals, stage shows, a petting zoo and parade.

**Disney Water Parks** — Blizzard Beach and Typhoon Lagoon feature water slides, rafting rides, tubing, bodysurfing, snorkeling, a beach, pools and miniature golf.

**Downtown Disney** — Open day and night. Features shopping, Cirque du Soleil, Pleasure Island, dining and nightclubs with moving dance floors. Disney Quest lets visitors design and experience their own rollercoasters on a flight simulator.

**Universal Orlando** — Includes Islands of Adventure and Universal Studios. Both have rides, shows, movie sets and interactive attractions. Universal CityWalk, located before the entrance to Universal Orlando, features restaurants, nightclubs, shops, movie theaters, street performances and more.

**SeaWorld** — Features performances, close-up views of sea life and rides. Discovery Cove is adjacent to SeaWorld and offers travelers the chance to snorkel, view tropical birds, and swim with a bottlenose dolphin and other marine animals.

**Shopping** — Shoppers will find factory outlet malls, flea markets, Disney souvenir shops and malls.

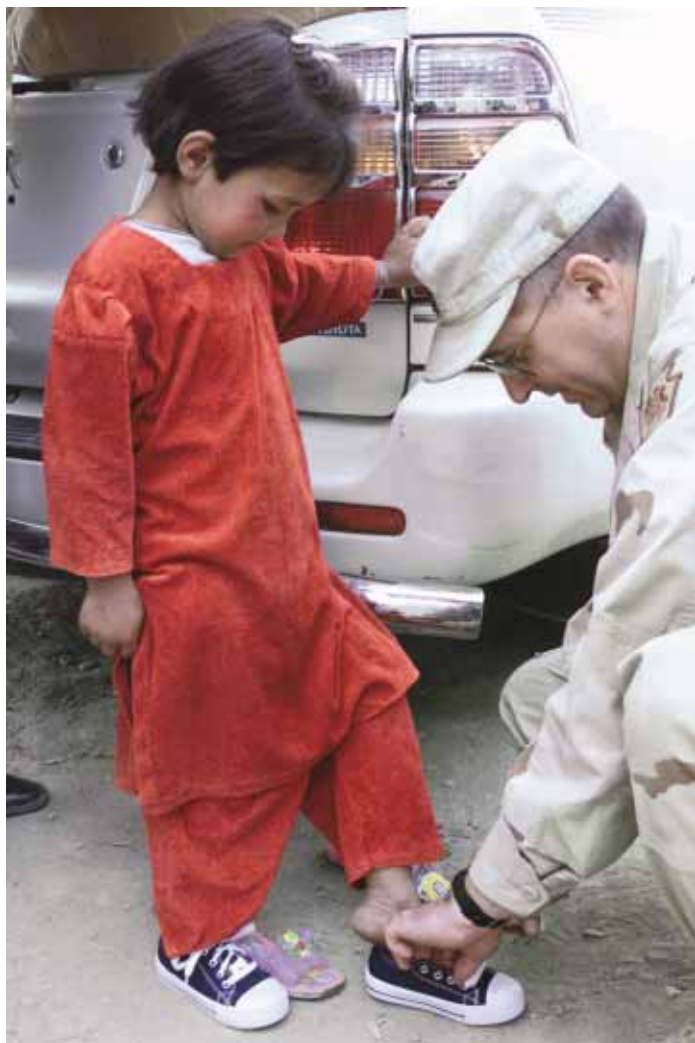
**Getting Around** — Transportation to Walt Disney World attractions is free from Shades of Green and Disney’s Transportation Ticket Center. For a break from the parks, check out the Kennedy Space Center, Busch Gardens, Titanic Exhibition or Salvador Dali Museum.

Shades of Green provides tickets to some attractions outside of Disney World, and can also arrange car rentals and reservations at local restaurants and dinner shows.  
— Beth Reece



*Got Off-Time? Check this out....*

**S**SG Ron Burke of the 211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment spent nearly a year in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. The photojournalist covered many missions, including this humanitarian effort. Burke photographed the happiness of Afghan children who received American-donated toys and supplies at an orphanage in Kabul. 🇺🇸



▲ SGM Terrence Werley places a new pair of shoes on the little feet of four-year old Alia.

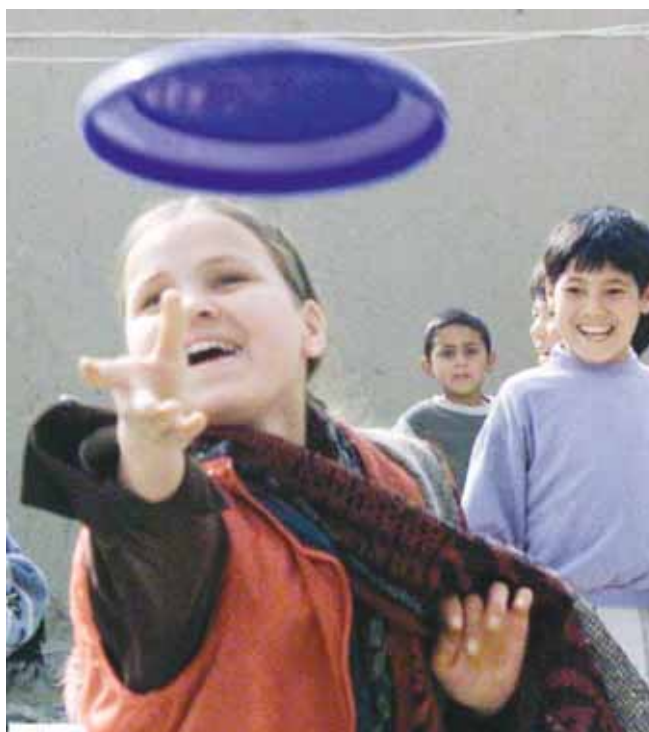
▶ Hamida carefully lines up colored wool thread and taps it down with a metal tool on a carpet loom at the orphanage.







▲ Nooria stands and reads a sentence describing a cat.



▲ With her friends happily looking on, Rahima tosses a Frisbee across the courtyard.

Mail photo submissions for Sharp Shooters to: **Photo Editor, Soldiers, 9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581**. Digital images should be directed to: [donald.wagner@belvoir.army.mil](mailto:donald.wagner@belvoir.army.mil). All submissions must include an introductory paragraph and captions.



# Soldier Re-employment Rights

**R**ESERVE and National Guard Soldiers called to active duty and now returning to civilian life are likely to have questions about their employment status after their release from active federal service.

Most of those questions are addressed in the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act. The USERRA is a federal law that gives members and former members of the armed forces the right to return to the civilian jobs they held before military service. The law applies to all private employers, state governments and all branches of the federal government.

## Eligibility

The USERRA criteria for judging service members' eligibility for re-employment include:

✖ **Proof of Employment** — You must hold or have applied for a civilian job that is considered long-term rather than temporary.

✖ **Notification** — Giving notice to the employer prior to active duty departure is an essential component of your eligibility for re-employment. The best proof of notice is by certified letter to the employer that declares the reason for absence and your desire to

return to work, as provided by the USERRA. Be sure to make a copy of your letter, which you should keep with the certified receipt provided by the post office. Also keep copies of all future letters and correspondence from your employer.

✖ **Limits of Service** — Your absence from work cannot exceed five years. But routine absences for National Guard and Reserve training are not counted towards the total absence period.

✖ **Character of Service** — Service discharge certificates (DD-214) must be either honorable or general. Dishonorable or bad conduct discharges

Steven Chucala is chief of client services in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at Fort Belvoir, Va.



disqualify the Soldier for USERRA rights. Should you remain in the reserve component and not be discharged, some employers may still request proof from your command as to the character of service.

**✂ Prompt Return** — Return to work must be prompt. For example, if the absence is not more than 30 days, a report back to the first work shift is reasonable if you have safely returned from your duty station and had at least eight hours' rest. If your absence from work runs to 180 days, a written application to return to work within 14 days is appropriate. If your absence from work totals 180 days, a written application to return to work within 14 days is appropriate. If you are absent for more than 180 days, a written application for work within 90 days after completion of service is necessary.

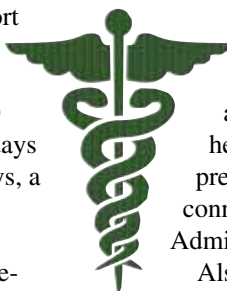
## Return to the Workplace

Your status of employment upon return to work should be as though you never left. You are entitled to all pay raises, seniority, most pension rights and promotions you would have received while on the job. Employers also must provide training on new equipment or techniques that were introduced in your absence, and they must provide accommodation for service-connected disabilities.

## Your New Duties

"Same-job" entitlement is based on the period of absence. If your period of service was less than 91 days, you are entitled to the job you would have attained during your absence, provided you can become qualified for the new position. If you cannot become qualified for the new job after reasonable efforts by the employer, you are entitled to the job you left.

For service periods that exceed 91 days your employer may re-employ you as above or in a position of "like seniority, status and pay" with the duties that you are qualified to perform.



## Restored Benefits

Upon returning to work, you are immediately eligible for reinstatement in the company health plan, and no exclusions may be raised for pre-existing conditions, other than for service-connected conditions as determined by the Veterans Administration.

Also, the Family and Medical Leave Act grants credit to National Guard members and Reservists for time served on active duty. This can be applied toward eligibility for time off from work for events such as the birth and care of a newborn, adoption or foster care, or for a serious health condition of the employee or certain family members.

## Your Rights Enforced

The law prohibits discrimination based on military service or military service obligation. For assistance or more information about the USERRA, contact the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve at (800) 336-4590 or (703) 696-1400, or by visiting [www.esgr.org/members](http://www.esgr.org/members).

The U.S. Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service is responsible for resolving and investigating reemployment issues. For more information, telephone (202) 219-9110 or visit [www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov).

Army legal-assistance attorneys are also available to advise Soldiers and prepare legal correspondence, or to assist you in finding civilian legal counsel.



## Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act

# IT'S THE LAW!



ACAP

## TRANSITIONING FROM SOLDIER TO CIVILIAN

LEAVING federal service? Let the Army Career and Alumni Program ease the way. ACAP was created to help Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians and family members transition from federal service to civilian life.

ACAP counselors help users establish individual transition plans that encompass education, training and employment goals. The ITP helps identify actions and activities associated with the transition, then organizes them into manageable tasks. Assistance is available in the following areas:

- ◇ setting realistic objectives,
- ◇ assessing abilities,
- ◇ exploring the job market,
- ◇ creating effective resumes,
- ◇ applying for federal jobs,
- ◇ maxing job interviews,
- ◇ dressing for success, and
- ◇ evaluating and negotiating job offers.

ACAP provides two ways for users to search job opportunities online: ACAP job listings and a “spider” search. ACAP job listings represent opportunities posted by employers who are interested in hiring Soldiers because of the personal traits and professional skills they possess. The “spider” search connects users with job opportunities through a one-time search of what ACAP considers some of the best Web resources.

Eligible users can seek one-on-one help at their nearest ACAP centers. Those who don’t live near a center can access ACAP assistance via phone and e-mail. ACAP tools and a listing of local centers are available online at [www.acap.army.mil](http://www.acap.army.mil).

Guard and Reserve members who’ve completed 180 or more days of active duty are also eligible for ACAP services.

Family

## OPERATION UPLINK

SPONSORED by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Operation Uplink helps keep soldiers and families in touch by providing free phone cards.



To make a donation, log onto: [www.operationuplink.org](http://www.operationuplink.org)



9/11

## Patriot Day

OBSERVED each year on Sept. 11, Patriot Day was signed into law on Dec. 18, 2001. It is a day for remembering those who lost their lives when terrorists hijacked aircraft and crashed them into the World Trade Center and Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania.

The day is observed with American flags flown at half-staff and a moment of silence.



## Guard & Reserve

### GET YOUR JOB BACK

ACTIVATED Guard and Reserve members have reinstatement rights to their old jobs under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.



For details, go to the Employer Support of the Guard Web site at [www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org).



Airman 1st Class Daniel deCook, USAF

## Operation Homecoming

### SHARE YOUR STORY

SOLDIERS returning from duty on the frontlines are being encouraged to write about their wartime experiences through a new National Endowment for the Arts program, called Operation Homecoming.

The NEA is issuing an open call for reflections on war in fiction, verse, letters, essays, memoirs and personal journals.

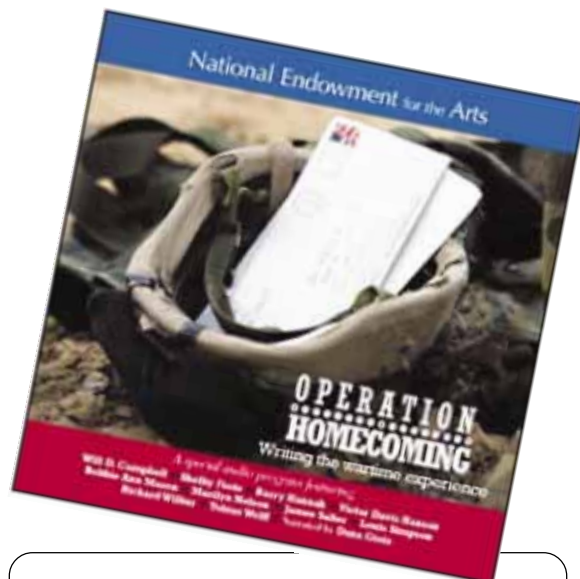
A panel of literary experts assembled by the NEA will review the entries and select the best examples to be published next year in an anthology that will be given to military installations, schools and libraries, and will be sold in bookstores.

Authors will receive an honorarium and two copies of the book. A percentage of any proceeds will go to military charities.

To provide inspiration and guidance, the NEA is distributing an **Operation Homecoming CD** containing interviews and readings by well-known writers who have dealt with war.

The program will give Soldiers and families the chance to write about their wartime experiences in a way that is both therapeutic and creative, said Charles S. Abell, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

"By reflecting on and documenting their recent experiences, participants will gain new insights by working with a number of renowned authors, and in the process will be writing works of genuine historical value," Abell said.



Submit your story. Submissions will be accepted through Dec. 31 2004.

You can send it by email at:

**[submissions@operationhomecoming.org](mailto:submissions@operationhomecoming.org)**

Or by mail to:

**Operation Homecoming,  
National Endowment for the Arts, Suite 519  
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.,  
Washington D.C. 20506.**



For more information, go to [www.nea.gov/national/homecoming](http://www.nea.gov/national/homecoming) or call the NEA Office of Communications at (202) 682-5570.

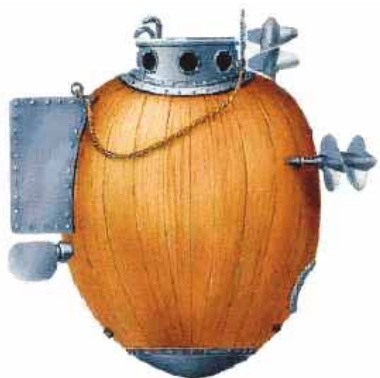
Beyond its role in defense of the nation, the Army and its Soldiers have contributed to medicine, technology, exploration, engineering and science. The milestones listed in this monthly chronology offer only a small glimpse of that proud story of selfless service. It is also your story.



For more about Army history, go to [www.Armymuseum.org](http://www.Armymuseum.org) and [www.Armymuseum.org](http://www.Armymuseum.org).

## 1700s

**1775** — Sept. 7. Continental Army SGT Ezra Lee pilots the first U.S. combat submarine, *Turtle*, in an unsuccessful attack on a British warship off Staten Island, N.Y. On the same day, the Continental Army is forced to withdraw after battles with the British at Brandywine, Pa.



**1780** — Three militiamen capture British Maj. John Andre and seize suspicious papers he'd hidden in his boot. The discovery uncovers a plot by American BG Benedict Arnold to turn over the defenses at West Point, N.Y., to the British Army.

## 1800s

**1814** — Defense of Fort McHenry. As dawn breaks on Sept. 13, MAJ George Armistead orders the raising of the American flag over the besieged fortress. The event, witnessed by Dr. Francis Scott Key, is the inspiration for Key's poem "The Star Spangled Banner."

**1847** — Battles of Molino del Rey and Chapultepec. Soldiers and Marines break the last defenses protecting Mexico City, which is surrendered to the Americans on Sept. 14.

**1861** — Union Soldiers in Virginia loft a gas-filled balloon on Sept. 24 to observe troop movements and adjust artillery fire using telegraph communications between air and ground crews.

**1862** — The Army of the Potomac clashes with the invading Confederate army at Antietam Creek, Md., on Sept. 17. It is the bloodiest day in Army history, with almost 13,000 killed, wounded or missing.

**1863** — Twelve-year-old Union drummer boy Willie Johnston of the 3rd Vermont Infantry Regiment is awarded the Medal of Honor on Sept. 16. The youngest Soldier ever to receive the award, he was cited for gallantry during the Peninsula Campaign in June 1862.

## 1900s

**1908** — Army Signal Corps LT Thomas Selfridge becomes the first person killed in a powered airplane accident when the Wright Flyer in which he is a passenger crashes at Fort Myer, Va., on Sept. 17.

**1918** — The Meuse-Argonne Campaign begins when the U.S. First Army quickly shifts forces north and launches a nine-division attack against German lines on Sept. 26. The offensive penetrates deep into enemy-held territory.

**1919** — On Sept. 23 Congress appoints John J. Pershing as "General of the Armies of the United States." He is the first man to hold the title.

**1941** — Birthday of the Military Police Corps, established on Sept. 26.

**1942** — Newly promoted Army Engineer BG R. Leslie Groves is placed in command of the super-secret "Manhattan Project" to develop an atomic bomb.



1863





1945

**1944** — On Sept. 17 the 82nd and 101st Airborne divisions make a daylight parachute assault in the Netherlands as part of Operation Market Garden. Four days later the 9th Inf. Div. advances into the Hürtgen Forest of Germany, beginning a battle that will last for months and involve five U.S. divisions.

**1945** — On Sept. 2, aboard the USS *Missouri*, anchored in Tokyo Bay, Japan signs the official surrender documents ending the war in the Pacific. The next day, recently released prisoner of war LTG Jonathan M. Wainwright receives the surrender of Japanese forces in the Philippines, where he had been captured.

**1950** — On Sept. 21 General of the Army George C. Marshall is appointed secretary of state, the first professional military man to fill that office.

**1956** — The Army adopts a new green uniform with black shoes, ending the days of the "brown-shoe" Army.

**1957** — President Dwight D. Eisenhower orders the 101st Abn. Div. to Little Rock, Ark., to enforce federal laws requiring school integration.

**1967** — MG Keith L. Ware, commander of the 1st Inf. Div., is killed when his helicopter is shot down in Southeast Asia. A World War II Medal of Honor recipient, he is the first of five Army general officers to be killed by enemy action during the Vietnam War.

**1979** — With her promotion and appointment as chief of the Army Nurse Corps on Sept. 1, BG Hazel W. Johnson becomes the Army's first black female general officer.

**1983** — The Army officially receives delivery of its first AH-64 Apache helicopters, which will become the mainstay of its attack-helicopter forces.

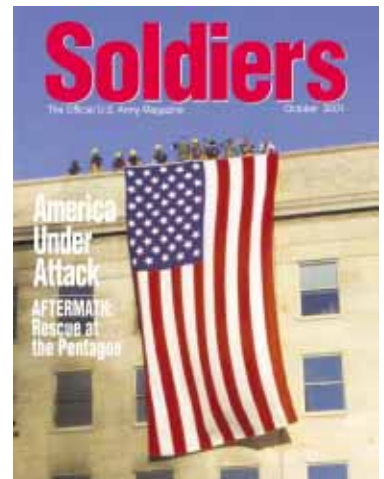
**1994** — Units of the 10th Mountain Div., 3rd Special Forces Group, 25th Inf. Div. and others land in Haiti to restore the constitutionally elected government. The operation lasts until March 1996.

## 2000s

**2001** — Hijacked aircraft hit the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon, near Washington, D.C., on Sept. 11. National Guard and Reserve units are activated to respond to the attacks.

**2002** — In Operation Enduring Freedom, elements of the 82nd Abn. Div. and 75th Ranger Regiment air assault into areas near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, hunting for Taliban and al Qaeda groups.

**2003** — The first group of service members to receive "R & R" from Operation Iraqi Freedom arrives Sept. 26 at Baltimore-Washington International Airport. They are warmly greeted by hundreds of supporters who cheer their homecoming and assist with their connecting flights home.



2001

# Back to **Norm**





# andy

Remembering  
D-DAY, June 6, 1944



7th ATC photo

▲ Paratroopers from the 82nd and 101st Airborne divisions, the 75th Ranger Regiment and the 173rd Abn. Brigade parachuted into Normandy near Ste. Mere-Eglise as part of the commemoration.

JAMES Eudy hasn't seen the 2002 box-office blockbuster "Saving Private Ryan," nor does he plan to. "I don't need to see someone else's interpretation of combat," said the 85-year-old World War II veteran. "I've seen enough of the real thing."

Eudy was among thousands of veterans and family members — and hundreds of Soldiers from U.S. Army, Europe, and elsewhere — who in June attended events commemorating the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landings on the beaches of France's Normandy coast.

This trip marked Eudy's fourth in the six decades since he crossed the English Channel and entered France on Christmas Eve, 1944. Time and familiarity, though, appeared to

This story was compiled from U.S. Army Europe news releases and a story about James Eudy by Hugh C. McBride who works at the 6th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office.



7th ATC photo

▲ A French boy — dressed in World War II-era clothes and standing on a period Jeep — waves U.S. flags as the paratroopers land.





▲ Pointe du Hoc, now a popular tourist destination, was a heavily defended German position on D-Day. It was captured by Soldiers of the 22nd Ranger Battalion.

have done little to lessen the emotional impact he experienced as he stood on the beach where so many Soldiers died during the massive invasion called Operation Overlord.

"I have never talked to anybody about what the war was like," said Eudy, who served with the 66th Infantry Division's 264th Regiment during the war. "It's too emotional."

Eudy said he returned to the bluffs overlooking Omaha Beach to honor those who died during U.S. efforts to liberate France and to remind younger generations of the price of freedom, and to thank today's service members for their dedication and sacrifice.

Soldiers from the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade stationed in Giebelstadt, Germany, formed the

nucleus of the D-Day commemoration task force that planned the 60th-anniversary events, said brigade commander COL R. Kirk Lawrence.

Those ceremonies were conducted at the Normandy American Cemetery; Ste. Mere-Eglise, the first French town liberated by U.S. troops; Pointe-du-Hoc; and Utah Beach.

A paratroop drop near Ste. Mere-Eglise commemorated the June 5, 1944, jump. Twelve C-130 Hercules and four C-17 Globemasters carried more than 600 Soldiers from the 82nd and 101st Airborne divisions, the 75th Ranger Regt., the 173rd Abn. Brigade, and joint special-operations forces to the drop zone, where they landed in full view of spectators.

Following the drop, the Soldiers



▲ A visitor to the Brittany American Military Cemetery braves the rain to honor some of those who died liberating France from German occupation.

marched with the crowd toward downtown Ste. Mere-Eglise.

"If you're a paratrooper, you learn about this place from day one," said SFC Peter Crittenden of 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group, who drove from Stuttgart, Germany, with fellow members of his unit to participate in the jump.

During ceremonies at the Normandy American Cemetery, Eudy wore the same uniform he was issued as a private first class during the war.

President George W. Bush and French President Jacques Chirac laid memorial wreaths at the foot of the bronze statue "The Spirit of the American Youth Rising from the Waves."

Following a 21-gun salute that signaled the event's end, many young Soldiers surrounded Eudy, who stood with his wife and son beside him. Some asked for autographs, some thanked him for his service, and some simply stood silently on the sidelines, listening to his reminiscences and weeping along with him, as the enormity of the war's losses once again overcame him.

Though Eudy did not arrive in France until more than six months







CPT Adam J. Falk



Jason Austin

▲ President George W. Bush and French President Jacques Chirac wave to the crowd gathered for the ceremony.



Hugh C. McBride

▲ Soldiers of the Germany-based 57th ADA fold one of two U.S. flags that flew over the Normandy American Cemetery.

after D-Day, there was no doubt that he was entering a nation that was still embroiled in war. En route from England to Normandy, Eudy's ship was hit by a German torpedo, killing 803 men. "There was death everywhere," he said. "That devastated our division."

Devastation, though, did not equal defeat. Eudy and the other survivors made it across the channel and from there were sent to St. Laurent-sur-Mer, France, to prevent German forces from advancing.

Army Chief of Staff GEN Peter Schoomaker spoke at the Ranger memorial at Pointe-du-Hoc, where on D-Day 225 rangers had been tasked to climb 100-meter cliffs, virtually

Jason Austin



▲ Visitors pause before a Pointe du Hoc fortification. The position dominated the landing beaches, and its destruction was vital to the invasion's success.

straight up, to destroy German gun emplacements.

Some 70 percent of the attack force was injured or killed, but Operation Overlord had succeeded. "Let there be no doubt: Everyone here paid a great price ... and all were changed for the rest of their lives," Schoomaker said. "And we owe them a great debt."

After Schoomaker's remarks, a group of dignitaries placed a wreath at the ranger memorial. Among the participants was retired ranger Len Lommel, who is credited with discovering five heavy German gun emplacements in an apple orchard near the cliffs and leading the assault

that destroyed them.

The final ceremonies of the day took place at Utah Beach, the western edge of the massive invasion, where the 4th and 29th Inf. divisions went ashore.

Secretary of Veteran's Affairs Anthony J. Principi told the assembled veterans: "For a moment, you held the future of freedom and America in the palm of your hands, and you did not fail us."

"On this day, in this place, people struggle to find words to express their gratitude. Words will never be enough," Principi said. "On behalf of the 25 million living American veterans, I salute you." 🇺🇸



▲ In the days following the invasion Allied troops and equipment poured ashore across the Normandy beaches.

# Seeing Stars

**W**ITH his two combat veteran sons helping to pin on new stars, **LTG Richard A. Cody** became GEN Richard A. Cody just minutes before being sworn in as the Army's 31st vice chief of staff during a Pentagon ceremony July 2.

Cody, who left his position as the G3 on the Army staff to take the Army's number two top uniformed leader slot, replaced GEN George W. Casey Jr. Casey departed the Pentagon in late June to become commanding general of the Multinational Force Iraq.

Cody's sons, CPTs Clint and Tyler Cody, both 101st Airborne Division Apache helicopter pilots who recently returned from Iraq, traveled from Fort Campbell, Ky., to attend their father's promotion and swearing-in ceremony.

"I never pushed my sons to join the Army," Cody said. "The fact that they did speaks volumes of the sergeants, warrants officers and officers they've come across at the many camps, posts and stations where we have served,"

Cody attended the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. where he was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1972.

A veteran combat aviator with more than 5,000 hours in numerous military aircraft, Cody commanded the 1st Battalion, Avn. Brigade, 101st Abn. Div., during Operations Desert Shield and Storm, where he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for destroying two critical enemy radar sites.

Army Chief of Staff GEN Peter Schoomaker told ceremony attendees that Cody's flight to destroy the radar sites in the early hours of the Gulf War was indicative of Cody's leadership style: "Always leading from the front."

More than a dozen of Cody's West Point classmates attended the ceremony. Other notable attendees included Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz and singer Wynonna Judd. After thanking Judd for attending his ceremony as a family

friend, he said he appreciated even more the fact that she routinely visits Soldiers at Fort Campbell and wounded troops at Walter Reed Medical Center, in Washington, D.C.

As the Army vice chief of staff, Cody will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Army and the synchronization of Headquarters, Department of the Army staff.

Cody said that he missed being a colonel, because that's where all the fun is – Soldiers.

"The Soldiers in combat today who are getting promoted are much more significant than me pinning on four stars," Cody said. 🇺🇸

**Cody's wife, Vicki, holds the Bible as he is sworn in as the 31st vice chief of staff by Army Chief of Staff GEN Peter Schoomaker.**



**GEN Richard A. Cody waits while his sons, CPTs Clint Cody (left) and Tyler Cody, both with the 101st Airborne Division pin four stars on his shoulders on July 2.**

*The new Army vice chief of staff will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Army. . .*



SGT Reeba Critser (Both)



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### When Do Volunteers Perform Their Duties?

Ambassadors and Installation POCs perform their duties year-round with heavier emphasis in the June–December months, when school visits are key to encouraging registration in the competition. CyberGuides perform their duties throughout the competition. This year's competition begins September 1, 2004 and ends February 21, 2005.



For more information, please visit [www.army.mil/features/ecybermission](http://www.army.mil/features/ecybermission) or email [ambassadorprogram@ecybermission.com](mailto:ambassadorprogram@ecybermission.com).

To register, please visit [www.ecybermission.com](http://www.ecybermission.com) and click the "Start" button.

We hope you will participate in the Army's eCYBERMISSION Volunteer Program and help make the 2004–2005 competition a success!



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Staff Sergeant **Gregory Travis**. 54B Chemical Specialist. **U.S. Army Reserve**

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EVERYDAY JOB.**

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